

The Hampden-Sydney Tiger

December 2, 2021

TPUSA HOSTS
ANGELA
MORABITO,
TRUMP-ERA
DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION
PRESS SECRETARY

GRAYSON HARMON '23
STAFF WRITER

On November 16th at 7:00pm, Turning Point USA was generous enough to host Angela Morabito, who served as former President Donald Trump’s Department of Education Press Secretary. There was a solid turnout of about 30 members of the Hampden-Sydney community, which might have been a result of the free Chick-fil-a that was offered to those in attendance.

Food provided or not, Morabito covered topics such as race bias, gender bias, the Office for Civil Rights, bias in content, diversity spending, and a number of other ideas related to today’s education in the United States. The College is fortunate to have such exclusive connections to be able to host events like this one, and students who attended the event were grateful.

Junior Matt Johnson ‘23 attended the event and had positive takeaways from listening to Angela Morabito. Johnson said, “I thought it was awesome! Getting the chance to hear from someone who worked directly with the Department of Education was a unique experience. The media has been filled with critical race theory and bias in education, but she offered clarity in a very cloudy topic. I certainly look forward to hearing from more TPUSA speakers.”

Matt Johnson was just one of many students in attendance, but this event would not have been possible without Turning Point USA and its president, Noah Moore ‘23. Moore said “When founding TPUSA at H-SC, I hoped that the club would be able to bring in interesting, educa-

“The Hampden-Sydney student will behave as a gentleman at all times and in all places.”



AN UNCONVENTIONAL MASTERPIECE

FINGER-STYLE GUITARIST YASMIN WILLIAMS STRIKES A CHORD WITH H-SC

MICHAEL HARRIS '22
LIFE EDITOR

On November 3rd, I had the privilege of hearing Yasmin Williams play live on campus. It was definitely an amazing and immersive experience. Her music, which can best be described as “instrumental folk,” left me in awe of her talent and love for music.

Her way of playing was entrancing. In a way it reminded me of EDM (electronic dance music) in the sense that you could listen to the music for hours and not be bored. After the concert, I found myself on Spotify listening to her album and not realizing how fast time went by.

My favorite song of hers that I believe fully captures this essence would be “I Wonder” (“Song for Michael”) from her *Urban Driftwood* album. It makes one feel as if they’re floating in the clouds, taking in all the great things life has to offer. Another interesting thing about her music is how she plays it.

When I saw how Yasmin played

tional speakers who sparked lively discussion and debate. And our first speaker did just that. Angela was a superb speaker who both knew what

guitar, I was quite surprised. She can play the guitar conventionally of course, but the true magic begins when she flips the guitar with the strings facing up in her lap. She then plays the guitar that way while producing notes from the strings on the neck and sound hole of the guitar. She produces notes from



the neck by pressing firmly on the position she wants and then quickly strumming the string so that the correct note is played. This to me seemed like an extremely difficult task; however she did it

she wanted to say and did so respectfully and constructively. I hope to have many more speakers in the future like her so that TPUSA

with ease. One song that truly showed her skill with this unconventional style of playing was her song “Guitka” from her *Unwind* album that I had the pleasure of hearing live. This style gave her enough flexibility to then add other elements into her music. In this particular piece she was able to play the guitar while

a piece of wood to create nice moments of syncopation. Despite Yasmin’s playing style being extremely unique and worthy of praise she has actually received a lot of criticism for it. I had the pleasure of talking with her after her performance and asked her what kind of criticism she receives about her playing style. She responded by saying, “Most people just assume I don’t know how to play because of how I hold the guitar. They tell me ‘Oh you’re doing it wrong’ whenever I go to the music store to try out new guitars. That criticism usually goes away once they actually hear me play.” And despite her talent there are those that would simply prefer for her to play conventionally. Thankfully, Yasmin does not allow these criticisms to define her or change her music. I recommend anyone looking for some new music to listen to to give Yasmin Williams a listen. It is definitely an experience worth indulging.

can help contribute, in some small part, to maintaining our atmosphere of sound learning.” This event was educational, in-

formative, and entertaining, which is one of the main goals of Turning Point USA and we look forward to many more events like this in the future.

formative, and entertaining, which is one of the main goals of Turning Point USA and we look forward to many more events like this in the future.

formative, and entertaining, which is one of the main goals of Turning Point USA and we look forward to many more events like this in the future.

Macon Weekend Slama Jama

ALEX RUBINO '23
STAFF WRITER

Rock out Sydney students! Hampden-Sydney Student Senate and College Activities Council hosted a combined three bands over the Macon game weekend. On Friday, the first night, Student Senate hosted DeeOhGee and Vintage Pistol just outside the Tiger Inn. DeeOhGee was a calm jam band to start out the night. The crowd for DeeOhGee was a decent size as its set went along in the night. As a person on Student Senate and who was at the Tiger Inn for the whole night, I really enjoyed DeeOhGee and overall atmosphere around that band. After the first band Student Senate also hosted the annual Macon Car Bash. This took place in the parking lot right next to Brinkley Hall. The Car Bash was the highlight of the night. It drew a big and rowdy Hampden-Sydney crowd ready to take a swing at the yellow and black painted car. The Car Bash was definitely the buzz of the weekend activities. After the Car Bash, the second band of the night, Vintage Pistol, took the stage. Unfortunately, the crowd started to die down as the night went along. Vintage Pistol was also a good band with a great lead electric guitarist with long solos. While both bands were going, we were lucky enough to have the Pitmasters’ Society cooking great meat sandwiches on their smoker. I do have to say, that was one of the greatest meat sandwiches I have ever had. On Saturday night CAC also hosted a band at the Tiger Inn on the same stage. The band the band GrandVille. It was another great jam band for a chill

Continue reading on page 2

PAGE TWO

Letter to the Editor: Please Retain Mask Mandates—and Enforce Them

DR. SARANNA THORNTON
GUEST COLUMNIST

Dr. Stimpert,

Please retain mask mandates on campus as consistent with current CDC guidelines. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

* Wearing a mask to reduce your risk of catching COVID-19 or spreading it to others is not akin to cutting your fingernails

as a preventative.

* There is science that supports masking as one of several effective measures to reduce the incidence of COVID-19. The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (1/26/21) reports that because COVID-19 is primarily transmitted via respiratory particles, mask wearing reduces transmissibility per contact by reducing transmission of those particles. PNAS also reports that “

Public mask wearing is most effective at reducing spread of the virus when compliance is high.”

* Wearing a mask in October 2021 (or November, or December ...) is an act of disease prevention. Giving in to unscientific demands to eliminate mask mandates on campus would be an act of appeasement.

* High vaccination rates among students, faculty, and staff do reduce our likelihood of dying or being hospital-

ized for COVID-19 -- but faculty, staff, and even students belong to households in which some members cannot be vaccinated. The Food and Drug Administration did not approve a Covid vaccine for children 5 - 11 years old until October 29, 2021. Thus it will be several weeks before young children in our households can be fully vaccinated.

* There is still no approved vaccine for children under the age of 5. Although young children are often not thought to be part of the H-SC community—faculty, staff, and students are right to be concerned about bringing the COVID virus home to households that include unvaccinated individuals.

* Making a decision about masking based solely on the risks to the H-SC Community would be myopic. Unlike students who may spend 24 hours/day on campus, faculty and staff are also concerned with individuals in our own households - and those that we interact with during religious worship, volunteer activities, supervision of our children’s playdates, eldercare, etc. In PE county just over 41% of individuals are fully vaccinated. Wearing masks on campus, indoors in classrooms where students and faculty engage in loud talking reduces the likelihood employees will carry the virus into the off-the-Hill community.

* Vaccination provides a high degree of protection against death and hospitalization, but breakthrough infections do occur and can be serious. The Virginia Department of Health reports that between 1/17/2021 through 10/30/21 for every five unvaccinated individuals who died of COVID there was one fully vaccinated individual who died. Vaccinated individuals who experience breakthrough infections are also at risk for hospitalization and long-COVID (albeit less than

the unvaccinated).

* Like masking, some rules may be annoying to follow, e.g., food service employees must wash their hands after using the bathroom, but the rule serves to promote public safety and is based on science. It’s also not that burdensome. If food service employees weren’t complying with hand hygiene rules, would we agree that the rule should be abandoned? Or would we implement better mechanisms to promote compliance?

Macon Weekend, cont’d



Photo courtesy of Alex Rubino '23

DeeOhGee performs on the deck outside of Brown Student Center. college vibe. The crowd was also light this night at the Tiger Inn. There were multiple reasons to the low attendance at the Macon Weekend Activities: the Flu started to spread around the campus, a lot of students went home for the weekend since the Macon game was away, and the weather was cold outside. The momentum for the multiple event week-

end was not there, but from my standpoint the whole Macon weekend was well run by the students involved, and I cannot wait for the Macon game next year at home.

Ever wanted to see your name in print?

Write for *The Tiger*.

Contact newspaper@hsc.edu for more information.

ADVERTISE HERE
NEWSPAPER@HSC.EDU

NEWS

Sheepdog or Soldier: Jennifer Baker Gives Talk on Virtue Ethics and Policing

DRAKE KALINOWSKI '23
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Jennifer Baker of the College of Charleston, South Carolina, visited The Hill on Tuesday, November 16 to give a talk about virtue ethics, the center of her research, and how that particular study of a branch of ethics might help provide some insight into how police should and do conduct themselves in our society. The lecture, which was hosted by the Center for the Study of Political Economy (CSPE), discussed four main questions: What self understandings apply to law enforcement, what self understandings fail to apply to law enforcement, what impact does taking on a role in society have, and what is the impact of how we think of ourselves? All of these questions provided the focal point through which virtue ethics was trained on the subject of police and policing, which has been a very important issue in America and even globally the last few years. Baker began her talk by discussing a number of options open to law enforcement in regards to how they view themselves, particularly in America. The first option offered by Baker is that of a paramilitary. Perhaps, the doctor argued, police should see themselves as merely a paramilitary organization whose job it is to keep the peace. Ideas that coincide with this are the same as militaries around the world, ideas like honor, duty, resolve, a willingness to engage in righteous violence, and the concept of brotherhood. Anyone who has watched a movie about or engaged with police or military culture should be able to see a few of these ideas in the conduct of individuals within those organizations. However, Baker then presented some objections to this idea of how police might view themselves. The military, Baker argued, constantly seeks self understanding. They are not generally satisfied with one role, but rather continu-

ally seek to update themselves to the changing environment of the world. The benefits of pre-combat motivation, which may very well be a boon on the battlefield and in situations of kill-or-be-killed, can tend to make a peace officer detached from the people they are supposed to be serving and protecting. To further her objections to this viewpoint, Baker cited Seth Stoughton, another virtue ethicist studying virtue ethics and policing. The warrior rhetoric often used in military and paramilitary culture, Stoughton argues, creates an “Us vs. Them” mindset and creates a sense of tension and aggression between normal civilians and peace officers. Not only that, but it carries not only the will to conduct violence but even a desire for it and a desire to be viewed as a hero. All of these can damage the minds of peace officers, and contribute to viewpoints that estrange them from normal civilians. It should be clear, then, that this military mindset is not ideal for peace officers, but then where does that leave police officers? The only option left then, is that of a guardian, the idea of the ‘sheepdog’ that so many police officers seem to identify with in modern culture. While this may seem better on the surface, it too carries a number of implications that may ruffle the proverbial feathers of those who consider it. The idea that police are sheepdogs implies that

the populace of the country are sheep, who without the sheepdogs would be incapable of taking care of themselves. Not only is it reductionist towards the general populace, but it reduces police officers to nothing more than dogs of the law, tools that serve a purpose but are replaceable and without the amount of value they truly hold. Additionally, it converts the sheep into a populace to watch and implants the idea that behind every sheep is potentially a wolf. Virtue ethics does provide a lens through which to examine the peace officers of the modern day, but it clearly cannot provide an answer as to how exactly officers should view themselves. If they are not soldiers tasked with peacekeeping by any means and neither are they benevolent guardians that the entirety of American civilization depends on, what are they? Neither sheepdog nor soldier, neither guardian nor warrior. They seem to be all and none at the same time. Dr. Baker was inconclusive in her discussion, but did insist that virtue ethics will provide us the ultimate answer as to what the place of police in society is and how they should view themselves. We simply have not yet found out what their place in society is or how they should place themselves within it.



Photo courtesy of Daniel Nirens '24

Finding God the Hampden-Sydney Way: Cogito Hosts Paul Nedelisky on *A Humanistic Argument for Secular Theism*

RICHARD JONES '25
STAFF WRITER

Here at Hampden-Sydney College, we have a long tradition of understanding religion. For many of its early years, the College had a fully-functioning Presbyterian seminary, which eventually broke off to begin the Union Presbyterian Seminary currently based in Richmond. It should come as no surprise to readers, then, that the College should continue its relationship with the study of religion by inviting distinguished figures in philosophy and religion to give seminars on campus. Most re-

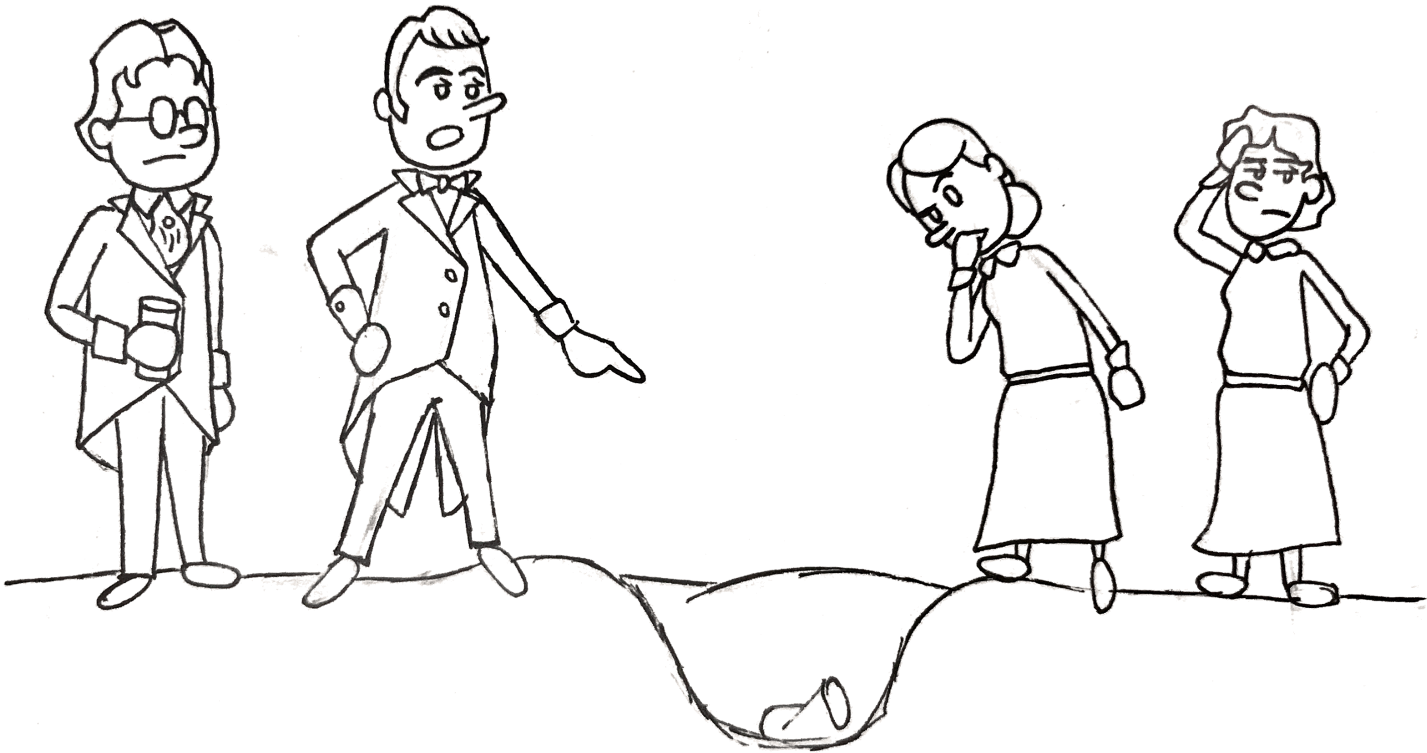
cently, the resident chapter of Cogito invited UVA Professor Dr. Paul Nedelisky to speak on secular arguments for the existence of God on the 17th of this month in Bortz Library. His talk, entitled “A Humanistic Argument for a Secular Theism,” detailed various secular arguments that he found especially convincing and highlighted specific novels that the professor recommended for their particularly intelligent insights. This was followed by a brief period of questioning with the audience, prompting in-depth discussion on the very nature of reality. This is the

type of inquisitive nature that defines Hampden-Sydney as a liberal arts college. We are not afraid to delve deep into topics and consider various viewpoints, such as non-religious arguments for the existence of God. We are also not afraid to critique and even dismiss such arguments should they be found lacking in logic. This type of critical thinking develops students here at HSC into deep-thinking men whose thoughts influence the world around them. It is through seminars such as this that students develop their essential critical thinking skills,

Continue reading on page 5

Cartoon

SAMUEL ROBELEN '23
CARTOONIST



1839: The first Thanksgiving between Longwood & Hampden-Sydney — Hampden-Sydney students teach Longwood students to bury Genesee Light now to grow more beer later.

OPINION



Beer of the Week
FOUNDERS PORTER

MICHAEL VAN CITTERS '22
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The days are short, the trees are bare, and broken glass gleams everywhere! That’s right, folks, the season of autumn is nearing its end, and soon it will be winter, so as Christmas approaches, America’s brewers open up their spice cabinets and dump hefty doses of cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger, orange peel, and God knows what else into their beers. Several months ago I commended Sam Adams for his elegant pumpkin wheat ale, which featured a nice blend of cinnamon and nutmeg, but alas, the trend has been broken, and the plastered patriot’s 2021 “Beers for Cheers” variety pack really misses the mark. I don’t want to dwell on Sam Adams’s Christmas beers (because there’s not much there to dwell on), but I feel that it is my obligation to dissuade any seasonally-minded sheep consumers who might be inclined to drop fifteen bucks on “Beers for Cheers” from doing just that. “Beers for Cheers” has twelve beers, two bottles of each of six varieties: the pack has three spiced beers (*Old Fezziwig*, *Holiday White Ale*, and their annual winter lager, which they have thoughtfully chosen to call *Winter Lager*), a porter (*Holiday*

Porter), an IPA (*Reunion IPA*), and the classic *Boston Lager*. The TL;DR: *Winter Lager* and *Holiday Porter* are decent; the *Boston Lager* is . . . well, the *Boston Lager*; and the rest might just as well be substituted for coal in the stocking of whoever keeps extending the mask mandate. The brewers at Sam Adams deserve credit for their festive attempt at making Christmasy beers, but one stick of cinnamon does not a winter make. As much as the monikers of *winter ale* and *Christmas ale* would seem to make spiced styles the obvious choice of anyone foolish to crack open a cold one even when the temperature is below freezing (e.g., me), it is my opinion that the barren landscape of Southcentral Virginia in December calls not for a beer that smells like a Yankee Candle but rather for the rich and velvety taste of a porter. There are some things that God did not want us to know, and among these things is the difference between a porter and a stout. Both styles are made with dark roasted malts and both have similar characteristics when it comes to the more subtle flavors present in the beer. Some people claim that porters don’t use roasted barley or that porters are slightly sweeter, and some say that porters tend to have

a higher alcohol content, but I have yet to hear a universally agreed-upon criterion for distinguishing the two styles, and I will simply judge as a porter what the bottle calls a porter. (N.B. If you know the secret, please keep it to yourself, and if you hear someone claim to know the difference between a porter and a stout, molly whop him before he blasphemes.) Not counting Sam Adams’s *Holiday Porter*, which is only available in a variety pack, there are three porters available for purchase in Farmville: Breckenridge’s *Vanilla Porter*, Deschutes’s *Black Butte Porter*, and Founders’s appropriately named *Porter*. As the more astute readers might have noticed, one of these things is not like the others. The beer from Breckenridge is flavored with vanilla, which throws the beer’s quality into question from the get-go. In principle, there is nothing wrong with a vanilla-flavored beer, but as a general rule, if you are putting things like vanilla into a beer, you are probably compensating for mediocrity in the beer itself, and that is definitely the case with Breckenridge’s *Vanilla Porter*. This one’s not terrible, and although I think it’s the worst of the three, if you like vanilla (and beer), you

might like this beer. Once Breckenridge is eliminated, the choice between Deschutes and Founders is really a matter of preference, because the difference between the beers really just reflects stylistic choices, not discrepancies in quality. Deschutes’s *Black Butte Porter* is hoppy and herbal and not especially complicated when it comes to the malts. Its pronounced hop character makes it a prime example of an American porter, in contrast to an English porter, which will feature less hop flavor and more malt character. Founders’s *Porter* is also an American porter, but it is noticeably richer and thicker than *Black Butte*, featuring far more prominent notes of caramel and chocolate and a more restrained use of hops that, in my opinion, makes it a better choice for yuletide imbibement than *Black Butte*. *Porter* also does a better job of balancing the slightly sweet flavor with the roasty flavor that that makes a porter what it is. The call is a close one, but the smooth and pleasant taste of Founders’s *Porter* makes it the ideal choice for easy drinking by the fire, in the dining room, or the floor of your bedroom. Happy drinking!*

*Happy drinking wishes apply only to those who are 21 years of age or older.

HISTORICIZING
HISTORY:
300 LIES

CONNOR COSTA '24
STAFF WRITER

Many people believe that at the Battle of Thermopylae there was a valiant stand of only 300 Spartans holding off the overwhelming Persians singlehandedly. This simply was not the case, as in actuality, there were approximately 7000 Greek soldiers from a multitude of city-states. While it is true that there were around 300 Spartans there and that they were led by King Leonidas, they made

up only a fraction of the Greek forces present at the battle. Another common misconception is the true number of the Persian army. Many believe that it numbered close to one million men, while the actual number was closer to around one hundred thousand. So while it is still impressive that around seven thousand men held off one hundred thousand for three days, it was a tad more evenly matched fight than 300 vs one million.

Hark the Herald
the Griswalds Sing:
Spoiler Alerts
Never Spoil

DANIEL NIVENS '24
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

To those of you who know me, you probably know that I am quite terrible at watching movies. Chances are if you ever ask me “Have you seen this movie?”, the answer is no. So, in an effort to make myself watch some movies, I am writing this column. In every issue of The Tiger, I will be writing a non-spoiler review of an old movie that I had never seen. These movies could be a decade old; they could be five decades old. The moral of the story is that spoiler alerts never spoil. “We’re going to have the hap-hap-happiest Christmas since Bing Crosby tap-danced with Danny f***ing Kaye!” That’s right; it’s Christmas time! As this is the last issue of our esteemed *Tiger* before the holidays, I’ve taken a look at a classic of the Christmas season: *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*. I must confess: I’ve violated the spirit of this article, as I’ve seen *Christmas Vacation* many, many times. However, the movie ages like fine wine. Every viewing gives a new joke to enjoy. Released in 1989, my dad has been watching it every year for 32

years, and I’ve never seen it fail to make him belly laugh. The plot revolves around a family, the Griswalds, led by the bizarre patriarch, Clark. Clark spends his entire Christmas holiday waiting on an expected bonus check from his work, which he spends lavishly in his mind. Meanwhile, he has to put up with his direct and extended family as they converge on his home for Christmas dinner. The humor swings wildly from clever to basic slapstick and keeps everyone on their toes. The movie has a way of representing basic holiday tasks, such as decorating the house or interacting with your senile grandmother, in the most outrageous ways. The cinematography is outstanding, the comedic timing is perfection, and the plot has just the right amount of outlandish. All in all, *Christmas Vacation* is the perfect Christmas comedy and has rightly earned its place among the holiday classics. I really can’t recommend it enough. *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation* is an undeniable 100%, making it the first movie that I’ve reviewed to earn the honor.

LIFE



Photo courtesy of Patrick Garifo '23; pictured are Eric Cheatham '25, Tobias Konieczka '22, and Nick Quillian '24

Death of a Salesman Takes Stage at H-SC

MICHAEL HARRIS '22
LIFE EDITOR

On November 18th, I had the pleasure to witness a truly masterful performance by our very own Hampden Sydney theater department along with some special guests from Longwood University. Over the course of two weeks, Michael Burgdorf and company put on five shows of *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller. This play focuses on a man named Willy Lowman (Tobias Konieczka) and how even when a man attempts to reach for the stars, he can come up short and end up driving his family away and himself into madness. It is most definitely a play that is not meant to be taken lightly. It holds a great message within itself that opened my eyes a bit as well. However, this could not have been done

without the direction of our very own Michael Burgdorf, who chose to direct this play for his own Theater Thesis project. His decisions on set, lighting, casting, and blocking were spot-on all around. His guidance allowed the actors to show off their natural talents while also having great chemistry with one another. The cast fit each other like a custom-made glove, and the performances had me on the edge of my seat. With this great guidance, however, comes great talent. A great deal of that talent must come from the main character so that the energy that fills the stage becomes contagious to the others. Tobias Konieczka (Willy Lowman) understood this to an incredible extent. His acting was not only superb, but also extremely believable. From the way he shouted to the times when he

wasn't even on stage, you could feel his presence looming. Tobias was able to bring to life an extremely complicated, sympathetic, and intimidating character. When talking to Tobias about how he was able to handle such a difficult and emotional role, he told me that after a performance he is extremely drained. "When I cry on stage, it is actually me crying. I have recently gotten engaged too, so there are a lot of aspects of Willy's character I can relate to. And because of that, it makes the things that happen to Willy in the play seem more real to me." Using outside entities to help influence one's performance on stage is a great skill to have as an actor. Luckily, Tobias was able to use this to his advantage to create a truly memorable performance. Along with Tobias' performance came the perfor-

mance of Lucy Ellis, who played Linda Loman, the wife of Willy Loman. She truly gave off the essence of an "old soul" simply trying to keep her family together. Those who played the sons of Willy and Linda Loman were also great. Nick Quillian (Happy Loman) and Jeff Tornell (Ben Loman) truly brought the family chemistry of the four together. These four along with the amazing supporting cast made the play an enormous success. My only complaint was that it only lasted five nights and not more. There will be many more of these amazing performances to come during our spring semester here at Hampden Sydney. I urge you all to come to John's Auditorium when there is a play going on and support your fellow Tigers as they show off their artistic ability in the theater.

(Adam's Version): A Look At "Red"

ADAM BRAZIL '24
STAFF WRITER

Taylor Swift released "Red (Taylor's Version)" on Friday, November 12th. The album debuted at number 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and is Swift's 10th album to achieve this feat, tying her with generational talent such as Eminem, Elvis, Drake, and Kanye. This is extremely impressive considering that 21 of the 30 songs on the album were re-recordings—in other words, two thirds of the album was nothing new. Most of the songs are almost ten years old and were a part of Taylor's 2012 album, "Red." Furthermore, an outstanding 26 of the songs on "Red (Taylor's Version)" made it to the Billboard Hot 100.

The nine new songs were written in 2012 but never released by Taylor, or they were released by other artists. The songs include features from Ed Sheeran ("Run"), Chris Stapleton ("I Bet You Think About Me"), and Phoebe Bridgers ("Nothing New"). Also, among the nine new tracks are "Better Man," which was recorded and released by Little Big Town in 2017. However, since Taylor originally wrote the song, she has the rights to the song. Therefore, she recorded it for "Red (Taylor's Version)" and executed it to perfection.

"Red (Taylor's Version)" includes hit songs like "22," "I Knew You Were Trouble," and "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together." The re-recordings are very similar to the original versions made in 2012. On all the re-recorded songs, her voice is slightly better, and the production is a little clearer.

The songs throughout the album are allegedly focused around Taylor's romantic relationship with Jake Gyllenhaal in the fall and winter of 2010. Taylor was only 20 years old when the two dated while Jake was 31. They dated

for only 3 months until Jake ended the relationship because of the age difference. On the album's best song, "All Too Well (10 Minute Version)" Taylor sings, "I was never good at telling jokes / but the punchline goes / I'll get older, but your lovers stay my age." It's true, Taylor has gotten older, as has Jake, and yet Jake's girlfriends all seem to remain in their 20's.

"All Too Well (10 Minute Version)" topped the Billboard Hot 100 despite being 10 minutes long. It is the longest song to ever top the Billboard Hot 100, passing Don McLean's "American Pie" in 1972. "All Too Well" is beautifully written; it tells the story of 20-year-old Taylor and 31-year-old Jake with delicacy, humor, and pain. The entire song is centered around the lyric "I remember it all too well," which is Taylor's way of convincing herself that she remembers their love even if Jake denies the seriousness and authenticity of the relationship.

Taylor's lyricism shines bright throughout "All Too Well." Towards the end of the song, Taylor sings, "Cause in the city's barren cold / I still remember the first fall of snow / and how it glistened as it fell / I remember it all too well." With this album, Taylor has re-established herself as one of the greatest songwriters of our generation and one of the greatest artists as well.

Cogito, cont'd

and these seminars are an essential part of the Hampden-Sydney experience as a result. We need more seminars like this to help expand the minds of every student on campus, so that one day each might be able to come to an informed conclusion about important topics such as the existence or lack of a God.

H-SC SLUDGE REPORT

From the desk of the Interim-interim-temporary-fill-in Dean of Admissions.

Any Attempt to Ride a Shark or Shave While Operating an Animal or Moving Vehicle is Done at the Risk of the Operator.

Mark Zuckerberg to Rename Facebook to Fackerberg.

Board of Trustees Hesitates Endowing a Dean of Dick Jockeying Despite Overwhelming Administration Support.

Recent Hampden-Sydney Graduate Wounded While Attempting to Capture a Tiger.

The Female Population Here? Let's Just Say They're Endangered Monday-Tuesday.

This Much Sludge Should Be Illegal. We are Incapable of Checking.

Report From the Office of Alumni: Death Rates from Shock and Appall Have Started to Decline.

Initial Designer of the Blog Refuses to Put Down Shovel.

In Keeping With Changes to Coordinating Conjunctions, Remember: A Hampden-Sydney Man Will Not Lie, Cheat, or Steal, Moreover Tolerate Those Who Do.

THE BACK PAGE



Photo courtesy of Daniel Nivens '24

Christian’s Corner: Thanksgiving and Christmas

DAVID CREGO '23
COPY EDITOR

Brothers and Sisters of Hampden-Sydney, it is a truly joyous time. The semester nears its end, and we find ourselves approaching a nice Christmas break. In this time, let us remember to give thanks. Part of our prayer lives consists of thanking God for the many blessings he has given us. “Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God” (Philippians 4:6).

It is easy to fall into despair. Deadlines pile onto deadlines, and we can feel overwhelmed by the work and expectations. When we remember the clemency of God, all our despair evaporates. Why lament when God is calling us to Heaven? No one is barred from salvation, but it is up to us to accept God’s grace. God gives us a glorious gift that we

do not deserve and cannot ever show enough gratitude for, but our inability to show proper thanks is not going to stop us from trying.

As we spend time with our family during Thanksgiving and Christmas,

No one can exist by himself. It is through our interactions with others that we learn who we are and who we should be. During this Thanksgiving, remember everyone who helped you throughout your life, and if you can,

as Hampden-Sydney, where we are receiving one of the best educations not only available to us but to all of human history. Let us be thankful for the many friends and professors here who help us, who shape us and who teach us to

persecution for our religion. (Remember that there are some places in the world today where making the sign of the cross results in harsh punishment.)

Let us be thankful for our family, particularly

willing to accept us, no matter how sinful we are, no matter how neglectful we are towards him.

If you, dear reader, have any other petitions or things that you are thankful for, never be afraid to show it.

A good Christian is an open, vocal Christian. Jesus commands all Christians to “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation” (Mark 16:15). Let us not fall into old nasty habits or slothfulness when we go home. Let us be invigorated by the fact that Christ died for us and that we must spread this good news to every single person.

Alas, that is but my humble interpretation. Each person is called into a relationship with Christ, and each person is unique. If you have any questions or quarrels with whatever I have said, please, do not hesitate to email me, David Crego, at Cregod23@hsc.edu. God Bless!



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

let us show gratitude for the people in our lives who have shaped us into the men and women that we are today. An African proverb states that it “takes a village to raise a child.” This is extremely true for us as Christians.

go up to him or her and show your appreciation. Tiny gestures such as this can mean the world to someone.

So let us count our blessings. Let us be thankful that we are able to attend such a college

be better people. Let us be thankful that we live in the time that we do, where we have the knowledge of Christ’s sacrifice for us. Let us be thankful to live in the country that we do, where we do not have to fear about

our parents. Even in a tenuous familial relationship, our parents and our siblings are motivated by the strongest sense of love for us. Most importantly, let us be thankful that there is a loving and merciful God who is always



Photo courtesy of Daniel Nivens '24